

Republicans Fail on Education

- ***Republicans At Least \$8.8 Billion Short on “No Child Left Behind” Act*** — The House Republican resolution provides at least \$8.8 billion less than the \$34.3 billion authorized for education programs under the “No Child Left Behind” Act for 2005. This low funding leaves millions of elementary and secondary school students without the services Congress and the President promised just two years ago. For example, the Republican budget denies Title I services to 2.4 million students who qualify under the Act.
- ***Republicans Fall Farther Behind “Full Funding” of Special Education*** — After 2005, the Republican budget increases education funding by only 0.5 percent annually. At that rate, the federal share of special education funding would fall to only 17.9 percent of the costs, far short of the federal promise to pay up to 40 percent of the costs.
- ***Republicans Freeze Maximum Pell Grant for Third Straight Year*** — Both the Republicans and the President freeze the maximum Pell Grant award at the 2003 level of \$4,050, with an average grant of \$2,399. Such small Pell Grants make college unaffordable for millions of students: the College Board reports that tuition and fees at 4-year public colleges today average \$4,694.

Democrats Help Students

- ***Democrats Do More to Help Students*** — The Democratic budget provides \$5.8 billion more than the Republicans in total discretionary and mandatory funding for education, training, and social services in 2005, and \$14.5 billion more than the Republicans over five years. Over five years, the \$9.8 billion in additional appropriations will support “No Child Left Behind” Act programs that improve student achievement, increase the federal share of special education funding, and make college more affordable by raising the maximum Pell Grant. The additional direct spending will lower the cost of student loans.
- ***Democrats Support “No Child Left Behind” Programs*** — Over ten years, the Democratic budget provides \$51.4 billion more in appropriations than the President’s budget for education, training, and social services. This additional funding in the Democratic budget can support the important programs under the “No Child Left Behind” Act. For example, the Democratic budget can provide additional resources for Title I (Education’s largest program that helps students meet new, strong student achievement standards), programs to improve teacher quality, and reading programs, among others.
- ***Democrats Erase Deficit in Pell Grant Program*** — The Democratic budget provides \$3.7 billion to fill the current shortfall in the Pell Grant program, putting it back on a sound financial basis and Congress in a position to increase the maximum award.

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- ***Democrats Lower the Cost of Student Loans*** — The Democratic budget includes the President's proposals that save college students money by lowering the cost of loans. Congress is due to reauthorize the Higher Education Act this year. The Democratic budget provides additional benefits to students, forgives up to \$17,500 of student loans for those who teach certain subjects in low-income schools, and increases loan limits for first-year students. In contrast, the Republican budget merely adds \$25 million annually for a more limited loan forgiveness program for teachers.